



IRSPM 2013



**Panel 16. New Challenges: the role of academic, policy
and practitioner engagement.**

**Collaboration and interconnectivity
Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Services
and
Higher Education Institutions in Nottingham.**

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A developing relationship of increasing collaboration and reciprocity, building social capital and complementary organisational capacity.

- **A ‘traditional’ relationship – universities provided full time, part time and short courses and opportunities for research degrees.**
- **In 2009 it diversified as collaborative projects started to include Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs), consultancy, student placements, and independent and joint research projects.**
- **In 2013 this developed into an agreement around the direct provision of analytical and policy advice as an integral part of the on-going Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP) process.**





Foundations, antecedents and ignition!

- Long institutional and personal **relationships between key people.**
- Membership of common **local public service partnerships** e.g. Local Strategic Partnership Sustainable Development Plan and the new Health and Wellbeing Board partnerships.
- The Fire Cover Review – stage 1 of the Integrated Risk Management Strategy 2010-2013 – **working together on the agenda.**
- **New roles and relationships** for NFRS under the 2004 FRS Act and the 2012 National Framework.



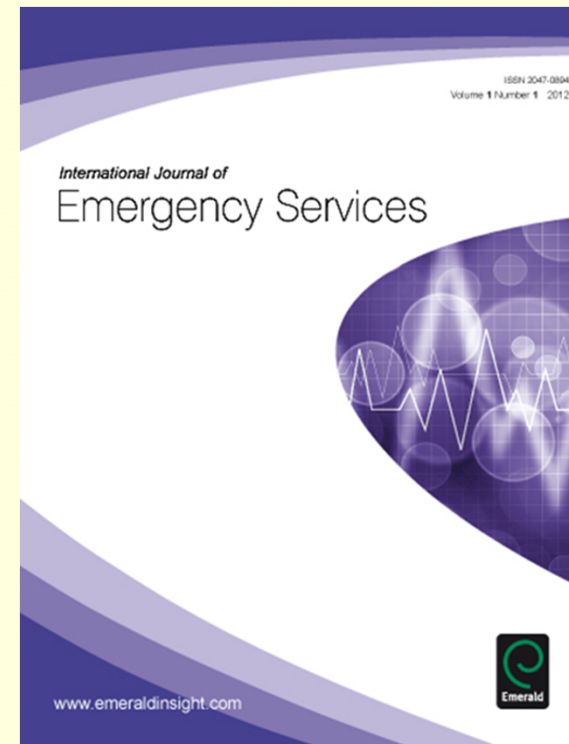
The 2004 Fire and Rescue Services Act, the introduction of IRMPs and the Civil Contingencies Act

- Changed the purpose of Fire Services – protecting people and communities.
- Changed the way FRS's measure, manage and respond to risk.
- Changed and clarified the roles and responsibilities for resilience.



Integrated Risk Management Planning and the Fire Cover Review in Nottinghamshire

- Evidence base
- Policy options
- Advice on consultation exercise
- Offer to support any legal challenge
- Dissemination of lessons learnt
- Assessment of future requirements



A key enabler

Changing Relationships as a result of the coalition government's Public Service Reforms and the 2012 National Framework for Fire and Rescue in England

- **Under the Open Public Services white paper Fire and Rescue Services become 'commissioned services' under a commissioner/provider split.**
- **There is a clear distinction and distance created between Fire and Rescue Authorities (commissioners) and Fire and Rescue Services (providers) – and an encouragement to introduce more diversity in provision.**
- **Fire and Rescue Services are required to provide best impartial advice to non operational, strategic decision making by Fire and Rescue Authority.**
- **The universities can maintain and demonstrate the independence of both their advice and the joint advice to the Fire and Rescue Authority.**

In these circumstances the opportunity to work in a new integrated collaboration is created as is reciprocity and inter-dependence.



What is involved and what is not

Yes ✓

- Building and improving the data, intelligence, predictive modeling and the analytical capacity available to NFRS/NFRA.
- Strategic policy implementation and management advice.
- Joint dissemination to policy makers, practitioners and academics.

No X

- Operational interference in the service which remains the responsibility of NFRS.
- The transference of any statutory decision making from NFRA.
- Responsibility or interference in either parties other roles in common partnerships or in other collaborations.





What will happen 'in practice'

- **NTU/NU will scope and define the content of a strategic needs assessment for the medium and long term future under IRMP.**
- **NFRS/NTU/NU will then co-produce the assessment and the a draft of proposals for consultation for the NFRA.**
- **NFRS/NTU/NU to publish and disseminate lessons and findings from preparation of strategic needs assessment and policy formulation at both academic and practitioner conferences.**
- **NFRS will provide access to databases and intelligence, both within NFRS and in the FRS national network.**
- **It is anticipated that all working papers and documents will be placed within the public domain on the NFRS website.**
- **NFRA will take decisions on consultation arrangements for proposed policies as required by IMRP process, and determine their future strategy.**





The 'Third Mission' and the 'Flipped Academic'

- **The third mission of universities** – this stems from the governments' desire to secure benefits from public investment in higher education to wider communities.. and..
- universities making contributions to government and civil society as well as the private sector, assisting not only with economic performance but also helping to improve quality of life and the effectiveness of public service.
- **The flipped academic** - is characterised by a desire to have a positive impact on public service delivery... and ...
- involves academics co-developing their ideas with their counterparts within industry or services, sharing these ideas openly, (in this case with the national fire and rescue and resilience communities), testing and validating these ideas in practice and finally publishing them as the impact of those ideas is in evidence.





Mutual Benefits and Reciprocity

- **An excellent opportunity for a unique longitudinal case study.**
- **Refreshing and reconfiguring the Public Service Master's and other Programmes.**
- **Disseminating improvement advice and good practice.**
- **Reputation building and reputation management.**
- **Economic, efficient and effective use of public resources in an era of austerity.**
- **Independent quality assurance and public confidence in safety and resilience of the service.**





Questions ?



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